

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

AUG 17 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Williams, C. C., House

and/or common Biddlecomb House/Cummings Apartment House

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 303 West Franklin Street

not for publication

city, town Clinton vicinity of

state Missouri

code 029

county Henry

code 83

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Lyle and Martha J. Cummings

street &amp; number 1104 South Seventh Street

city, town Clinton vicinity of

state Missouri 64735

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of Recorded of Deeds

street &amp; number Henry County Courthouse

city, town Clinton

state Missouri 64735

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate June, 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records Historic Preservation Program  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City, state Missouri 65102

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dr. Williams home, believed to have been built in 1867, has architecture typical of the more pretentious structures of the era, with ornate trimmings. It is a T-shaped frame structure on sandstone foundation with southern mansion front and hipped cross-gable roof. The house faces south on Franklin Street, known historically as "The Old Urich Road." The exterior is structurally sound and preserved as originally constructed, except for recent rehabilitation as follows: new roof; damaged doors and windows repaired and replaced; storm windows installed; missing down spouts replaced; porches repaired; missing trim replaced as close to original as possible; exterior repainted; new sidewalk.

Originally a single family dwelling, the house had been used for approximately the last 40 years as a rooming house. Interior alterations had been minor, but the condition of the interior had been permitted to deteriorate. For multi-occupancy use of the dwelling to continue, numerous repairs and additions to the interior were required to meet local health and building codes. The interior has recently been remodeled so as to convert the structure from an 8-unit rooming house to a 4-unit apartment. This involved minimal structural change but considerable remodeling including the following: back stairs re-opened per original construction, re-wiring and re-plumbing, providing 4 kitchens and 4 bathrooms; re-decorate with paint and panel; new carpet and tile floor coverings; heat and air conditioning units; fireplaces restored.

The house is located on a lot approximately 110 feet wide and approximately 210 feet deep. There are several shade trees on it and on other residential properties in the area. The neighborhood is residential, but the house is located only about one-half block from commercial development and only one block from the City square. As stated above, it is one of four properties with historical significance located on the respective corners of the Urich Road--Water Street crossing, and it is just over a half block from the Henry County Historical Society Museum.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local history

Specific dates Circa 1867	Builder/Architect Unknown	
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The C. C. Williams house is significant as a good regional example of the Italianate style, and as the residence of prominent citizens of the town of Clinton, Missouri. Architecturally, the house reveals the conservative way in which the Italianate Style was accepted in out-state Missouri. In form, the house is the typical I house with a central passage which was built throughout the state by migrants from the Upper South in the decades preceding the civil War. Even the pediment of the central bay echoes the Greek Revival mode that was only gradually superseded by the Picturesque styles in the post bellum period.

The exact date of construction of the Williams home is not known. He purchased the lots on which it stands in 1866 from Robert Allen, who was the first sheriff of Henry County. He and his family lived in the house many years before his death in 1895. Certainly the house was standing in the 1880's, and it is believed to have been constructed in 1867.

At the time C. C. Williams came to Clinton, there was but one drug store, recently established by the firm of Estes & Stone. Prior to that, necessary drugs and medical sundries were carried by general merchandise stores. Dr. Williams purchased Stone's half interest in the drug store, and two years later bought the remaining half interest of Estes, establishing the business which was to continue under the name of "The C. C. Williams Drug Company" for nearly 100 years.

Dr. Williams married Barbara A. McNeil, a native of Tennessee, in 1858. They had seven children, including Charles V. Williams, who continued in the drug business for many years after his father's death. Charles V. Williams never married, and he lived in his late father's house with two old maid sisters, Lillian (Pet) and Albia Williams, until they were all very old, when they sold the property and moved to San Diego, California.

Many interesting stories are told of Charles V. (Charley) Williams. A quiet man of settled habits, for years he walked daily the one and one-half blocks to his store, opened early, returned home for lunch, returned to the store, returned home for supper, and returned again to the store to keep it open until approximately 10:00 at night. It is said that he never altered this routine, and that for many years he never even went as far as around the public square where his business was located. The large iron heating stove in the rear of the store was a favorite gathering place for his friends, who would sit around and visit for hours.

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WILLIAMS, C. C., HOUSE

Continuation sheet

Item number

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When Charley Williams retired, the business was continued under the same name for many years by Martin Bennett, who began working for Williams when he was a boy. Like Charley Williams, Martin Bennett never married, and he lived with two old maid sisters.

When Martin Bennett retired, he sold the business to his long time employee Floyd Ream, who again continued the business under its original name for many years. Floyd Ream was married to the sister of Mrs. Gus S. Wetzel, Sr. Gus Wetzel, Sr., a prominent citizen of Clinton, founded and operated the Wetzel Hospital, one of the two major hospitals in Clinton which operated for many years. He also founded the Wetzel Clinic, which continues today, housing a dozen doctors, including two of Gus Wetzel, Sr.'s sons. When Floyd Ream retired, the business continued in the same original building, under several successive owners, until the late 1960's. The building now houses a Sherwin-Williams Paint Store.

Soon after Charles V. Williams sold the house, it was acquired by Lee and Victoria Phillips, and served as their residence for several years. Lee Phillips was an attorney. His wife Victoria was the daughter of Judge J. G. Dorman, owner of the brick house constructed across the street from the C. C. Williams house in 1855, which is still standing. The Phillips family moved to St. Louis, where they occupied a fancy home on Lindberg Boulevard, until it, along with many valuable antiques, burned. Today, Lewis and Victoria Phillips' unmarried daughter Udolpha Phillips still resides, in her grandfather's 1855 vintage brick home across the street from the Williams house.

In 1926, the property was purchased by W. C. Biddlecomb and his wife Anna, who together for many years ran a restaurant located on the West side of the Clinton Square near the C. C. Williams Drug Company. Anna, who was from Alabama and had an extreme southern accent, was elected to the Clinton City Council being the first woman to serve in that capacity. During the Biddlecombs' later years, they were cared for by Suzie B. Driggers, in consideration of which Mr. Biddlecomb deeded the house to her. After the Biddlecombs' death Suzie occupied the house and rented out rooms.

In 1958, Suzie Driggers sold the house to Alfred A. Julian and Wife. Alfred Julian was founder and operator of the Julian Hatchery, one of the many prosperous hatcheries in Clinton during Clinton's chicken hatchery boom. Julian sold to Clinton entrepreneur Clyde Forrest in 1962. At that time it was reputed that the several female borders occupying the house were practicing an ancient and disfavored profession. In a letter to the editor, published in the Clinton Daily Democrat, Forrest promised the citizenry that he would rid the house of those ladies of the evening. The extent to which he fulfilled that promise is not recorded.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Clinton Daily Democrat October 25 and 26, 1979, "The Old Urich" Haysler Allen Poague.
- Interviews with local historian Haysler Allen Poague.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/8 acre

Quadrangle name Clinton South

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 1 5 4 3 1 9 0 0 4 2 4 7 0 6 0  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                        

D                        

E                        

F                        

G                        

H                        

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Lot Eighty-four (84), except the North Sixty (60) feet Lot Eighty-five (85), except the North Sixty (60) feet and except the West One Hundred (100) feet; all in the original town of Clinton, Henry County, Missouri.

UTS References not on available USGS survey. These lots are located in the Southeast Quarter o

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Ross Eshelman, Attorney

organization Poague, Wall, Eshelman, & Cox date February 14, 1981

street & number P.O. Box 226 telephone 816-885-2221

city or town Clinton state Missouri 64735

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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WILLIAMS, C. C., HOUSE

Continuation sheet

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Verbal boundary description and justification (cont.)

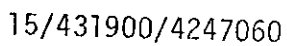
the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section Three, Township 41 North,  
Range 26 West.

ITEM NUMBER 11

PAGE 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey  
and State Contact Person June 1982  
Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program 314-751-4096  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

72601 NW  
(CALHOUN WEST)



WILLIAMS, C. C. HOUSE #1 of 6  
303 West Franklin St., Clinton, Henry Co., Mo

Photographer: Jill Johnson

Date: March, 1982

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Primary and east facade; looking northwest.





WILLIAMS, C. C., HOUSE #2 of 6  
303 West Franklin St., Clinton, Henry Co., MO

Photographer: Jill Johnson

Date: March, 1982

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Primary and west facades; looking southeast.



WILLIAMS, C. C., HOUSE #3 of 6  
303 West Franklin St., Clinton, Henry Co., MO  
Photographer: Jill Johnson  
Date: March, 1982

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Rear facade; looking northeast.





WILLIAMS, C. C., HOUSE #4 of 6  
303 West Franklin St., Clinton, Henry Co., MO  
Photographer: Jill Johnson  
Date: March, 1982

Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

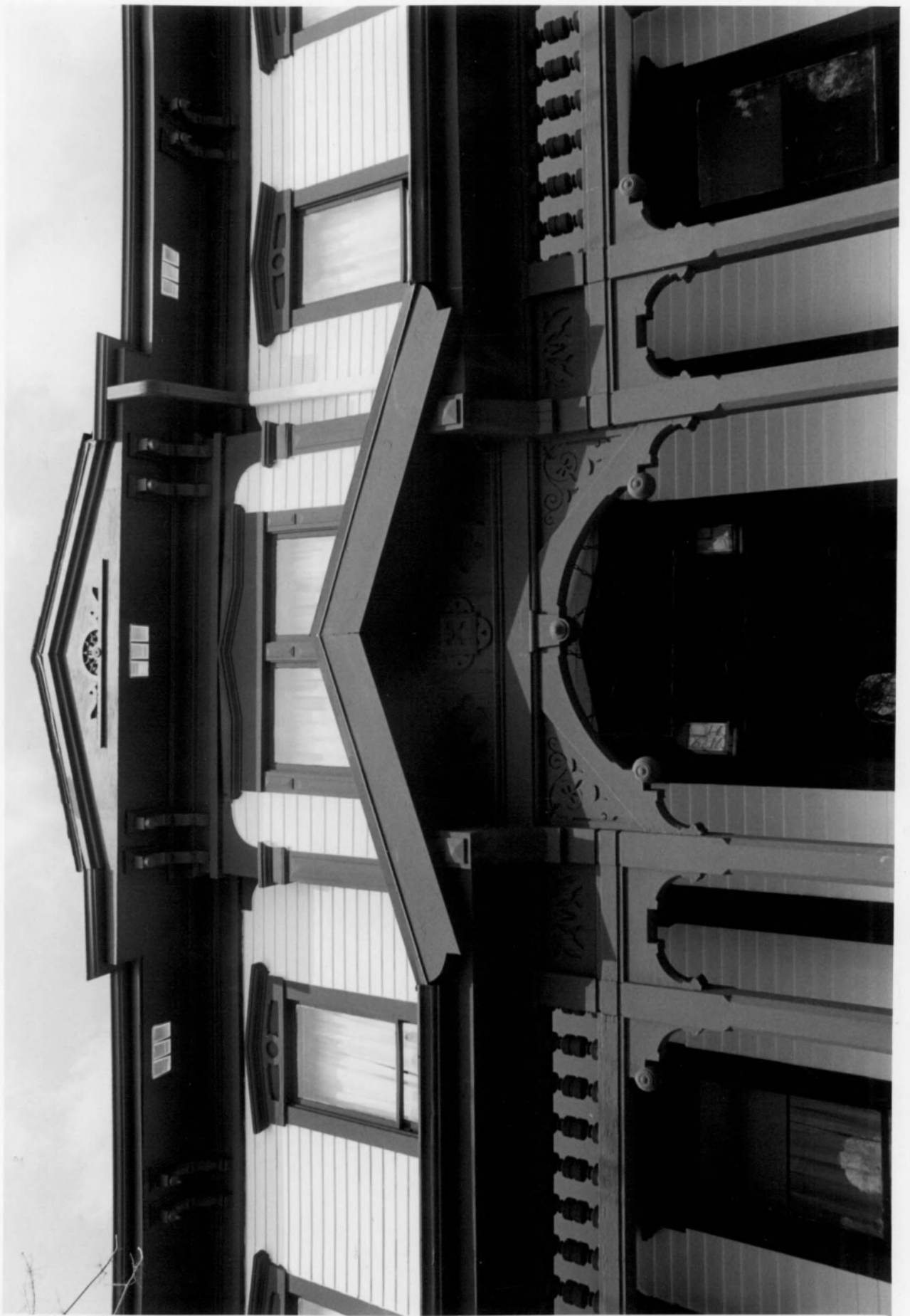
East elevation of rear wing; looking west.



WILLIAMS, C. C., HOUSE #5 of 6  
303 West Franklin St., Clinton, Henry Co., MO  
Photographer: Jill Johnson  
Date: March, 1982  
Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Detail, primary facade; looking north and up.





WILLIAMS, C. C., HOUSE #6 of 6  
303 West Franklin St., Clinton, Henry Co., MO  
Photographer: Jill Johnson  
Date: March, 1982  
Neg. Loc.: Dept. of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Detail, primary facade; looking southwest.



EXTRA  
PHOTOS



Front Exhibit "1"



S. E. Corner Exhibit "2"